

THE ADVANCE PROJECT
ADVOCACY, AWARENESS, AND CIVIC EMPOWERMENT

THE ADVANCE PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
January – March 2006

Submitted
By
Pact Nigeria
Cooperative Agreement #620-A-00-05-00096-00

USAID/Nigeria QUARTERLY REPORT FORMAT

January – March 2006 Quarterly Progress Report

<i>ACTIVITY SUMMARY</i>	
Implementing Partner:	Pact, Inc.
Activity Name:	Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) Project
Activity Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management 2. Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight 3. Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives
USAID/Nigeria SO:	SO11: Strengthened Foundations for Democratic Governance
Life of Activity (start and end dates):	May 23, 2005 through May 22, 2010
Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount:	\$8,000,000
Obligations to date:	\$3,416,848 through May 22, 2007
Current Pipeline Amount:	\$7,275,376.97 (\$2,692,224.97 against the obligated amount)
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter:	\$244,863.08
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date:	\$724,623.03
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter:	\$380,000
Report Submitted by: <u>Maisha Strozier, Chief of Party</u> Name and Title	Submission Date: <u>May 24, 2006</u>

Narrative Report

I. Background

The ADVANCE project has three objectives.

Objective I: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management. Pact Nigeria will work with a core group of 12-15 major CSO partners over the life of the ADVANCE project to provide technical and organizational development support leading to key outcomes on policy reforms and increased institutional capacity for sustained engagement of government on priority issues. The organizational capacity building program contains four key activities:

- 1) Pre-award planning and assessment of organizational and technical capacity, and where needed, support in building systems to meet sub-grant requirements
- 2) Sub-granting at levels that ensure impact on national level and key state-level policies and programs related to corruption, transparent and accountable governance, budget performance, and trafficking in persons.
- 3) Organizational and advocacy capacity self assessments and customized capacity building project for CSO partners.
- 4) Ongoing technical and organizational development support including formal workshops and mentoring programs in both programmatic and administrative/financial management

Pre-award planning/assessments for eight partners have been completed. Sub-grants were issued to four CSO partners during the reporting period. An additional six to eight sub-grants will be issued by the end of Quarter III. Pact Nigeria is set to roll out its full Organizational Capacity Building Program May 30- June 20.

Objective II: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight. Over the five-year project, ADVANCE will support key CSOs to lead advocacy campaigns for targeted policies addressing corruption, budget performance, and transparent and participatory governance. Current policy issues approved in the ADVANCE Performance Monitoring Plan and Workplan include:

- 1) Freedom of Information Bill
- 2) Annual Federal Appropriations Bills
- 3) Revised Anti-Trafficking Bill

Two additional policies were added during the quarter:

- 1) Fiscal Responsibility Bill
- 2) Public Procurement Bill

Through strong advocacy long supported by USAID under ADVANCE and previous projects, Media Rights Agenda and the FOI Coalition has built domestic and international support that for the FOI bill. Most observer think the Bill will pass the Senate and be signed into law by July-August. MRA/FOI will then focus on post-legislative

implementation. ADVANCE partner ActionAid is providing technical support to more than 20 groups to engage the federal government on implementation of the FY 2006 budget – for both general budget performance and on specific programs such as the MDGS, and NEEDS/SEED agricultural goals. During the reporting period, CISLAC has taken the lead on building a national constituency for passage of appropriate Fiscal Responsibility and Public Procurement Bills that will withstand constitutional challenges and lead to more transparent and responsive governance.

Objective III: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives. The ADVANCE project focuses on three very specific initiatives:

- 1) Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) – Civic engagement in developing the NEITI process; civic input and advocacy for passage of an NEITI bill; and oversight of the current audit of the oil industry and development of an ongoing process that can be replicated in the non-oil sectors
- 2) Oversight and public awareness/engagement of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Crimes Commission

Much of the ADVANCE project's support in Year I has focused on the NEITI process, largely through the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Campaign. During the reporting period, ADVANCE expanded its support to include participation of more groups from other areas of the country with non-oil sector resources in commercial quantities. Pact has supported Transparency in Nigeria (TIN) and the Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC) to review organizational constraints to sustained “watch dog” activities and to develop strategic framework for the oversight activities. Pact is partnering with ZCC on EFCC and ICPC oversight, and may extend support to TIN.

II. Quarter Progress

Pact made critical progress in program management and meeting expectations on programmatic results.

Program Management

Although the ADVANCE project experienced a challenging start-up period, a number of important accomplishments occurred during the reporting period:

- 1) Hired Programme Coordinators for vacancies for two key personnel positions – Budget Monitoring and Anti-Corruption. All key personnel on board since January 11th.
- 2) Performance Monitoring Plan approved by USAID
- 3) Workplan approved by USAID
- 4) Identification of ActionAid International Nigeria (AAIN) to replace Idasa as the lead organization on budget monitoring and advocacy. AAIN completed the pre-award assessment and has been working with Pact since mid-February on a consultancy basis. Pact anticipates approval from USAID and issuing a \$1.2 million sub-grant for the final four years of the ADVANCE project.

- 5) Issued sub-grants totaling more than \$520,000 through May 22, 2007 and major technical consultancies through June totaling \$120,000

Programmatic Results

The ADVANCE project is able to report outputs, and the achievement of milestones contributing to both mission-level and project-specific indicators.

11.0 Strategic Objective Performance Results

During the reporting period, Pact expanded its activities around the NEITI process and budget monitoring and advocacy to include more marginalized groups. Specific activities contributing to the SO-level indicator **CSOs representing marginalized groups engaging with government** include:

- The March 10th Gender Budget Advocacy and Planning Workshop brought together members of the Female Caucus in the National Assembly, Policy Makers in the Executive, and CSOs members of the Gender Budget Network. ADVANCE will extend support to the GBN and other women's groups using CDD as the partner.
- Pact supported participation of several northern and north central region groups in planning NEITI awareness and engagement in communities in Plateau, Bauchi, Kano, and Kaduna. Planning will lead to participation in remaining NEITI roadshows, advocacy on the NEITI bill and membership/support to PWYP and other extractive industries oversight groups and coalitions.

S11.1 Increased civic awareness, advocacy, and empowerment

ADVANCE is the Mission's key civil society strengthening activity under the Strategic Objective 11. As expected, ADVANCE CSO partners have begun to take the lead on civic engagement on national level reform issues. During the reporting period, Pact provided resources, technical and organizational support through some formal training, but largely by helping organizations to create space for civil society dialogue and direct engagement with policymakers.

Organizational and Advocacy Capacity Indices. As noted, Pact carried out pre-award assessments and strategic planning meetings with eight CSO partners that will receive sub-grants and participate in Pact's organizational capacity building program. The pre-award assessment and strategic planning processes represent the first steps in the program. Table 1. provides a summary of current sub-grants recipients and technical consultants. All of the organizations have completed pre-award assessments and received mentoring to bring their systems/policies in line with USAID and Pact requirements.

Table 1: Summary of Sub-Grants Agreements Signed During the Quarter

Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Focus	Amount	
				\$	=N=
PWYP	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Publish What You Pay Campaign in Nigeria	Awareness and advocacy around the NEITI and ongoing oil industry audit process	210,000	26, 880,000
MRA	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Advocacy on Freedom of Information Bill	Freedom of Information Bill (Legislative /Executive advocacy for the final stages of passage)	120,936.80	N15, 479,910
IPC	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Media Strengthening for Reporting on Corruption and Policy Reform	Media audit and capacity building for increased effectiveness of CSOs in using the media for awareness and advocacy on anti-corruption, trafficking, & budget monitoring	104,535.54	N13, 380, 549.60
WOTCLEF	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Public Awareness Campaigns and Advocacy on Trafficking in Women and Children with Special Focus on Kano, Osun and Cross River States	Increased awareness, public support and advocacy for more effective policies and enforcement of anti-trafficking laws.	85,000	N11, 968,000
Total Sub-grants				520,472.34	67,708,459.60
Program Consultancies					
CISLAC	March – June 2006	CSO Advocacy for Legislative and Policy Reforms	Strengthen informal coalition and advocacy on the Fiscal Responsibility and Public Procurement Bills	\$60,000	7,200,000
ActionAid	February – June 15, 2006	CSO Budget Monitoring and Advocacy	CSO training on the budget process and support to CSOs on advocacy/oversight of the FY 2006 budget	\$70,000	8,960,000
Centre for Democracy and development	March 2006	Linking the FY 2006 Budget to Gender and the MDGs	Launching of collaborative monitoring by the GBN, women's caucus, and other stakeholder groups	\$15,000	1,920,000
Total Program Consultancies				\$145,000	N18,08,000

Also during the reporting period, TIN and WOTCLEF carried out strategic planning meetings with ADVANCE support. For several years TIN has been experiencing organizational challenges that threaten the existence of the group. Pact supported the participation of the Transparency International Representative for Africa to travel to Nigeria from Berlin to facilitate the meeting that included most of the board and also newer members. Support for these capacity building activities totaled more than **\$15,000**.

Citizen input into targeted policies. Perhaps the most important intervention for the ADVANCE project is the support provided to CSOs to engage legislative and policy formulation processes. Pact's approach to advocacy capacity building relies heavily upon the idea that organizations become more effective advocates through practical advocacy experiences. With this approach in mind, ADVANCE used workshops for capacity building *and* advocacy during the reporting period, as well as direct advocacy through dialogue and advocacy visits to legislators and other decision makers. CISLAC and ActionAid were key partners receiving support totaling more than **\$60,000**, while the Centre for Democracy and Development received over **\$15,000** to bring a gender budgeting element into the budget performance monitoring program.

The following summaries provide status updates and information on outputs and results for advocacy on specific policies targeted under ADVANCE:

- The **FOI Bill** was passed by the House of Representatives on September 2004. The version passed was rejected on the Third Reading and sent back to the Senate Committee for recommendations in late 2005. The Senate set up an Ad Hoc Committee on March 14, 2006 signaling its desire to move forward on the Bill. There is a general sense that the President has shifted from opposing the Bill to being prepared to sign with some reasonable changes related to state security. The Senate will likely pass a version of the Bill that reflects some learning from the audit. The House and Senate versions would then need to be harmonized by a Conference Committee.

MRA and the FOIC receive support to strengthen alliances between civil society organizations advocating for the Bill and to provide technical support to both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Milestones this quarter, including:

- FOIC concluded arrangements with the Ad Hoc Committee to provide technical support to members
 - MRA coordinated input from other CSOs organizations on the proposed amendments and used the advocacy positions to lobby Committee members.
- The **Public Procurement Bill** is at the Committee level in both the House and the Senate, having gone through Second Readings. The House of Representatives in February inaugurated a Committee on Due Process and called for a public hearing on April 26th – 27th 2006. The Bill has Executive backing and should be passed without many bottlenecks. The challenge is to ensure that the version passed reflects civic input. The House of Representatives will likely have passed the Bill.

During the reporting period, CISLAC:

- Monitored progress on the Bill by attending Committee meetings and general house debates, and providing feedback to stakeholder groups for use in advocacy. As a result, there is board-based awareness on the status by Bill among CSOs.
- Similarly, CISLAC tracked movement of the draft **Fiscal Responsibility Bill** through the House Committee and facilitated gathering of input from key stakeholder groups for consideration by members. CISLAC also identified reform-minded legislators to build alliances with CSOs.
- In the absence of viable “watch dog” groups well resources and positioned for sustained oversight of government, the **media** plays a more critical role in safeguarding the country’s democratic transition. The media has not made a smooth transition from its role as vocal opposition to military rule to being an unbiased source of information on government and broader societal issues. Both quantity and quality of media reporting on policies addressed under ADVANCE are issues the project media strengthening project will address.
- During the quarter, Pact staff and consultants worked with ADVANCE media partner The International Press Center (IPC) to finalize the approach and methodology for a media audit to assess quality and quantity of reporting on anti-corruption budget, and other targeted reforms. The audit results will inform subsequent training and advocacy directed at reporters, editors, and owners. Pact and IPC also continued work on conceptualizing the media-based component of a broader cost-of-corruption campaign.
- Nigeria is a source and destination country for **trafficked persons**, as well as a transit country for persons destined for Europe, the Middle East and other parts of Africa for sexual exploitation, forced labor and involuntary domestic servitude. Even before the Government of Nigeria took an active interest in anti trafficking, the Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), was engaged in awareness and advocacy on the issue. The organization’s lead role in sponsoring the Bill and its strong advocacy led to passage of the Trafficking-in-Persons (Prohibition) Law in 2003. The law provides a legal instrument to apprehend and prosecute individuals involved in trafficking. The law also established the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking In Persons (NAPTIP) to enforce the provisions. WOTCLEF’s advocacy also led to needed revisions in the Bill. An amended Bill was passed in December 2005 imposing stiffer penalties for violators.
- During the quarter, Pact and WOTCLEF organized an Anti-Trafficking Roundtable and Planning Meeting for key government and civil society stakeholders. Participants included NAPTIP, ILO, Nigerian activists, CSOs, and law enforcement agencies (i.e. Police, Immigration etc.) Based on the

planning meeting, PACT and WOTCLEF agreed to collaborate on raising public awareness, oversight on enforcement of the Bill, and advocacy as part of the ongoing review and revision of the current Bill. WOTCLEF also began planning activities with chapters in Kano, Osun and Cross River states.

S11.2 Increased effectiveness of targeted institutions

Civic society-GON partnership to implement the EITI process. This activity has been the cornerstone of ADVANCE anti-corruption activities. As the quarter approach an end, Pact was able to begin serious discussion with ZCC on an approach and strategy for broadened civic engagement of EFCC and ICPC.

- The ADVANCE project's support (\$80,000 in in-kind support to-date) for civic engagement of the NEITI process helped achieve four important milestones during the quarter.
 - In January, the NEITI Bill moved through the second and third readings readings, leading to eventual passage by the House on January 16th. PWYP was more active in engaging the NEITI Secretariat, while CISLAC (as a member of PWYP) focused advocacy on the House Committee and on key members.
 - In February the NEITI Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CSOs stating terms of engagement and partnership.
- Pact and ZCC agreed that ADVANCE would support publication of the *Civil Society Guide to EFCC and ICPC* for broad dissemination on the web, and to human rights groups, media, and public interest legal groups. ZCC also submitted a concept paper on continuing oversight and engagement of the two commissions. In April, Pact will support a Strategic Planning Meeting of coalition members to examine the current structure and direction of the coalition.

III. Problems and Opportunities

With four large sub-grants now up and running and six to eight more sub grants planned for June and July, the ADVANCE project is well-positioned to increase average monthly expenditures and deliver projected results. Additionally, the roll out of the capacity building program in May-June; sub-grant to ZCC for oversight of EFCC and ICPC; and shifting of the current consultancy arrangement with ActionAid to a full, multi-year sub-grant will mean that all major components of the ADVANCE project are up and running Year II of the project begins.

Pact anticipates that the entire \$1 million ACI award will be expended by the end of the obligation in May 2007. Activities projected through September 30, 2006 should allow ADVANCE to spend down to a \$94,000 balance in ACI funds at the start of FY 07. Over the next four months, Pact will track the pipeline closely and make timeframe and activity adjustments to take advantage of opportunities and to meet challenges to achieving programmatic and expenditure-related objectives.

IV. Activity Changes

Pact projects two significant changes in the current activity that will affect the Cooperative Agreement.

- Signing of a sub-award with ActionAid will require USAID approval of their role as the lead organization on budget monitoring and advocacy, and adjustments in the ADVANCE budget to reflect their role and responsibilities.
- The approved Project Description will need to be revised to reflect an agreement to do state level budget and civil society oversight work in three focus states – Kano, Lagos, and Rivers.

V. Success Stories

No success stories to report this quarter.

VI. Next Quarter Results and Related Tasks

Organizational Capacity Index

- May 20 – June 21, Pact will rollout its capacity building program with the first round of six organizational and advocacy capacity self assessments leading to development of customized capacity building programs. The second round will take place in late July when six to nine partners will undergo the same process.
- ActionAid will carry out a mapping exercise to identify viable budget monitoring groups and identify technical support needs. The mapping is schedule to be completed mid-July.

Citizen input into targeted policies

- In the next quarter FOIC will carry out zonal advocacy workshops with CSOs, engage a consultant to assist the Conference Committee in its work, hold advocacy meetings with Senators, the Executive, heads of government intelligence and Security Services and carry out SMS Text Messaging on the Bill. Pact projects that the FOI Bill will pass the Senate, but the harmonization of the Senate and House versions will extend into July or August.
- April 19th – 20th, CISLAC will mobilize a loose network of leading CSOs for advocacy visits to Committee members, media houses and political parties to raise popular consciousness, broaden support base and mount pressure for the passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill. CSOs will participate in planning meetings in early April to analyze the Bill and develop an advocacy tool kit for the visits.
- May through June, CISLAC will coordinate three awareness and advocacy activities on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill: 1) A media roundtable (May 18-19); a CSO-Legislative Dialogue (June 2-3), and advocacy visits to the House and Senate (mid-June)

Civic society-GON partnership to implement the EITI process

- The first phase of the NEITI implementation will end with the submission of the draft report on the financial audit of the oil industry and the final physical and process report to the National Working Group (NSWG). Submission are scheduled for April 10th at the NEITI North Central Road Show in Abuja. ADVANCE will support the participation of twenty-two CSOs, including faith-based organisations, labour organizations from the North Central region. During two days of pre- and post-road show meetings, CSOs will develop advocacy strategies for the road show and action plans for the engagement of the NEITI process within the North Central Zone.
- After public hearings and strong civic input at the public hearings and with Committees from Chambers, the Senate will likely pass its own version of the NEITI bill, leading to a harmonization process sometime in June-July. ADVANCE will support direct advocacy, awareness, and broadening of engagement by groups in the non-oil producing regions. This support will complement the work of the PWYP Campaign
- Pact will complete preliminary planning for a broad-based extractive industries awareness campaign involving docu-news stories, site visits, media campaigns, etc. The focus will be on lesson learned from the oil industries and current status of plans for the non-oil extractive industries.

Civil society Oversight of the EFCC and ICPC

- In April, Pact will support a ZCC Strategic Planning Meeting of coalition members to examine the current structure and focus of the coalition. ZCC will submit a proposal by mid-May, with a formal pre-award assessment to be conducted in early June. Oversight work should begin in late June.

Media

- Pact anticipates preliminary agreement with Search for Common Ground on use of drama, media for messaging around corruption.